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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

ASCHER ET AL.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP2004/000683

FILED: 27 JANUARY 2004

U.S. APPLICATION NO: Not Yet Known

35 USC §371 DATE: Herewith

FOR: CARBOXYLIC ACID ESTERS TO IMPROVE BIOAVAILABILITY OF

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDS

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced patent application, please enter the following preliminary amendments.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.